(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is infiltrating terrorists and arms to India, through Bangladesh border; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Inputs indicate that Bangladesh territory has been used in some cases for launching operations against India by terrorist groups based in Pakistan/Pakistan Occupied Kashmir;

(b) The Government has taken various steps to control the infiltration of terrorists and arms into the country. These include, strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment, etc.

Besides, the matter was raised during the last Home Secretary level talks held between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka in August 2006.

Naxalite menace in mineral-rich States

4515. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxals' involvement in disrupting various private infrastructure plants in Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Naxalites have become a biggest challenge for the internal security in mineral-rich States of the country; and

(d) what steps Government have taken/proposed to take to control the Naxalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Naxalite groups, particularly CPI (Maoist), have occasionally attempted to disrupt private infrastructure plants in Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Such attacks are carried out mainly due to non-payment of levy to the outfit. Besides, the

naxalites ideologically oppose the establishment of SEZs, mining projects and proposed steel plants by private agencies as well as Government on the ground that they cause displacement of tribals from their homelands and result in loss of agricultural land of poor farmers. The CPI(Maoist) and its front organizations have been propagating to build up a sustained movement of the people at an all India level to oppose development agenda of the Central and State Governments.

Government views naxal menace as an area of serious concern; therefore, this issue is being addressed both on security, development fronts and public perception management fronts. The measures include deployment of 33 Battalions of CPMFs; sanction of 29 India Reserve Battalions; Modernization of State Police Forces, strengthening of intelligence mechanism etc. on security front. On the development front financial assistance of about Rs. 1680 crores has been provided to the naxal affected States under the Backward District Initiative (BDI) component of the Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana (RSVY). Similar development assistance is also available to naxal affected States under the Scheme of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).

Violation of ceasefire agreement by Pakistani Rangers

4516. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani Rangers violated the three years old ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in January, 2007 by opening fire on BSF personnel to help a group of intruders cross over to Indian side;

(b) if so, apart from BSF opening retaliatory fire to repulse the attack, whether our vigilance has been intensified to foil any such attempts, and whether the matter has been taken up at local commanders level, to sort out the problem;

(c) whether this matter was taken up at diplomatic level; and

(d) if so, what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.